

Midsomer Norton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
For the Year 1903.

GENTLEMEN, - I beg to present my annual report of health for the year 1903, together with the tables of statistics required by the Local Government Board.

Geology of the District.—The soil in the valleys is clay lying over conglomerate rock, on the high ground red loam under which are layers of upper lias. The land is chiefly pasture and fairly well timbered.

Occupations.—Coal mining, agricultural, manufacturing boots, shoes and beer.

Population. - Estimated to the middle of 1903—5,978.

Births.—The number of births registered during the year was 191—104 boys and 87 girls, giving a birth rate of 31·95 per 1,000 persons living in the district. The following table gives the number of births registered in each quarter of the year :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
1st quarter	30	18	48
2nd quarter	26	17	43
3rd quarter	27	26	53
4th quarter	21	26	47
	104	87	191

Deaths. - The number of deaths registered during the year was 58—24 males, 34 females, giving a death rate of 9·7 per 1,000 persons in the district, which is the lowest death-rate I can find recorded in this district. The average death rate for the preceding 10 years is 13·23. The following table gives the mortality in each quarter of the year with the respective death rate :—

	Male.	Female	Total.	Rate per 1,000.
1st quarter	9	8	17	11·37
2nd quarter	4	10	14	9·36
3rd quarter	5	11	16	10·7
4th quarter	6	5	11	7·36
	24	34	58	

The following table gives the mortality in the different localities of the district with the respective death rate :—

	Estimated Population.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
Midsomer Norton and Welton ...	4,334	44	10·12
Clandown ...	657	10	15·22
Downside ...	439	2	4·55
Westfields ...	367	1	2·7
Clapton ...	181	1	5·5

The ages at which death took place :—

Under 12 months of age	9
1 year and under 5	6
5 years and under 15	2
15 years and under 25	2
25 years and under 65	23
65 years and upwards	16
	58

There were 9 deaths under one year, giving an infant mortality rate of 47·12 per 1,000 births. This rate is, I believe, the lowest on record for the district. The average infant mortality rate for the preceding 10 years is 108·7.

The causes of infant mortality were—

Premature birth ... 4	Suffocation 1
Erysipelas ... 1	Broncho pneumonia 2
Injudicious dietary ... 1	

The causes of death at all ages were—

Heart disease... .. 7	Gastric ulcer... .. 1
Meningitis 3	Scarlet fever 1
Erysipelas 1	Hæmaturia 1
Premature birth ... 4	Syncope 1
Acute bronchitis ... 3	Convulsions 1
Chronic bronchitis ... 2	Enteritis 2
Pulmonary phthisis... 4	Diabetes 1
Tuberculosis of ear and throat 1	Carcinoma 2
Pleurisy 1	Cystitis 1
Broncho-pneumonia... 2	Bright's 3
Pneumonia 1	Cerebral hæmorrhage 2
Diseased liver 1	Chronic intestinal obstruction 1
Chronic alcoholism ... 1	Injudicious dietary ... 1
Hepatitis 1	Fractured skull 1
Suffocation 1	Accidents 2
Senile decay 4	

Only one death occurred from the seven principal zymotic diseases, *i.e.*, scarlet fever, 1. This gives a zymotic death rate of 0·16 per 1,000 inhabitants in the district.

Infectious Diseases.—The following notices of infectious disease have been notified during the year :—

	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	Total.
Scarlet fever ..	23	10	6	15	54
Erysipelas ...	1	3	—	—	4
Varicella ...	13	2	5	—	20
	37	15	11	15	78

Sickness.—During the first quarter of the year measles and chicken-pox were general. A serious outbreak of scarlet fever occurred at Clapton, which resulted in the death of one child; with this exception the outbreak was of a mild type. Sporadic cases of scarlet fever occurred during the second and third quarters of the year. During the last three months an outbreak of 15 cases took place at Midsomer Norton and Westfields. The origin of some of these could be traced from the attendance at school of a child when suffering from the fever during the peeling stage of the disease. The schools were closed for 14 days and disinfected throughout. The general health of the district has been unusually good.

Isolation Hospital.—The accommodation at the Cottage Hospital does not meet the requirements of the district. The Council has had this matter under serious consideration during the year. After many meetings, tedious consultations and negotiations with the Clutton Rural and Radstock Urban Councils with a view to furthering a scheme for a joint hospital, the whole project fell through. The Midsomer Norton Council are now considering the erection of an Isolation Hospital on the site of the existing Cottage Hospital. There are no arrangements at the present time for the immediate isolation of small-pox patients in the district.

Mortuary.—The necessity for the provision of a mortuary for the district has been brought to the notice of the Council during the year.

Water Supply.—The arrangements for a new supply with the Downside Abbey authorities is progressing.

Sewerage and Drainage.—Midsomer Norton and Clandown are to a great extent sewered, the sewage being treated at the respective works. In other parts of the district earth closets and cesspits are still in vogue. Westfields, with a population approaching 400, is without a drainage system, but I understand that a scheme is being prepared for connecting this hamlet to the town sewers.

Housing of the Working Classes.—The supply of houses does not meet the demand, although a considerable number of cottages have been built during the year in various parts of the district. From a health point of view I do not consider sufficient regard is paid to the pathways and approaches of the new parts of the town. With regard to the older built houses there are still a large number back to back with no through ventilation.

Scavenging.—Removal of house refuse is not undertaken by the Council.

Disinfection—No arrangements exist for disinfecting clothes or bedding. Sulphur fumigation and washing with carbolic lotion are used for rooms. A large spray for disinfectants is much needed.

Prevention of Consumption.—I would ask the Council to sanction the notification of death from phthisis so that the rooms might be immediately disinfected.

Slaughter House.—The district is without the provision of a public slaughter house.

Provision against Fire.—The nearest fire engine is located at Radstock. The district is not provided with an escape.

Common Lodging-Houses.—None exist in the district.

Details of house-to-house inspection, cases of overcrowding, and the working of the Factory and Workshops Act, are given in the Sanitary Inspector's annual report.

Appended are the tables of statistics, I., II., III., IV.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR BULLEID, M.O.H.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and previous Years.

Name of District Midamer North Urban District.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1893.	5216	183	35.	20	109.2	77	14.7					
1894.	5294	184	34.7	30	163.	87	16.4					
1895.	5372	196	36.4	18	91.8	66	12.4					
1896.	5450	186	34.1	19	102.1	64	11.7					
1897.	5528	185	33.6	12	64.8	65	11.9					
1898.	5606	185	33.	16	86.4	61	10.8					
1899.	5684	204	35.8	34	166.6	103	18.1					
1900.	5762	161	27.9	16	88.8	95	13.					
1901.	5838	192	32.8	25	130.2	72	12.3					
1902.	5908	189	31.9	16	84.6	71	12.1					
Averages for years 1893-1902.	5569	186	33.5	20	108.7	76	13.3					
1903.	5978	191	31.95	9	47.12	58	9.7					

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The “Public institutions” to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres }
(exclusive of area covered by water). } 3922

Total population at all ages 5821

Number of inhabited houses 1165

Average number of persons per house 5

At Census of 1901.

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	III. Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
	Clifton Union workhouse	
Is the Union Workhouse within the District? <u>no</u>		

TABLE II. Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1903 and previous years.

Name of District Middlesex North Urban District

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	1. <u>Middlesex North Urban District</u>				2. _____				3. _____				4. _____				5. _____				6. _____				7. _____			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
YEAR.																												
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Averages of years 1893 to 1902.	5569	186	76	20																								
1903	5978	191	58	9																								

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block I may, if desired, be used for the whole district: and blocks 2, 3, &c., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population this Table need not be filled up.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns c of this table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded. (See note on Table I. as to meaning of terms "resident" and "non-resident.")

(c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased.

(d) Care should be taken that the gross totals of the several columns in this Table respectively equal the corresponding totals for the whole districts in Tables I. and IV.: thus, the totals of sub-columns a, b, and c should agree with the figures for the year in the columns 2, 3, and 12, respectively, of Table I.: the gross total of the sub-columns c should agree with the total of column 2 in Table IV., and the gross total of sub-columns d with the total of column 3 in Table IV.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1903.

Name of District Midmore North Urban District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.							NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.														
Small-pox																				
Cholera																				
Diphtheria																				
Membranous croup																				
Erysipelas	4	1			1	2														
Scarlet fever	54		11	39	2	2								9						
Typhus fever																				
Enteric fever																				
Relapsing fever																				
Continued fever																				
Puerperal fever																				
Plague																				
<i>Measles</i>	20		3	16	1	24														
Totals	78	1	14	55	4	4								9						

NOTES.—The localities adopted for this table should be the same as those in Tables II. and IV.
State in space below the name of the isolation hospital, if any, to which residents in the district, suffering from infectious disease, are usually sent. Mark (H) the locality in which it is situated, or if not within the district, state where it is situated, and in what district. Mark (W) the locality in which a workhouse is situated.
* This space may be used for record of other disease the notification (compulsory or voluntary) of which is in force in the district.
† These age columns for notifications should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

Name of District Widener Norton Urban District.

(See Notes at Back.)

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).							TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Small-pox ...															
Measles ...															
Scarlet fever ...	/			/											
Whooping-cough ...															
Diphtheria and membranous croup ...															
Croup ...															
(Typhus ...															
Fever { Enteric ...															
(Other continued															
Epidemic influenza ...															
Cholera ...															
Plague ...															
Diarrhœa. (See notes at back.)															
Enteritis. (See notes at back.)	2		/		/										
Puerperal fever. (See notes at back.)															
Erysipelas ...	/	/													
Other septic diseases...															
Phthisis, (See notes at at back.)	4				/	3									
Other tubercular diseases.	2			/		/									
Cancer, malignant disease. (See notes at back.)	2					/	/								
Bronchitis ...	5		2				3								
Pneumonia ...	/					/									
Pleurisy ...	/					/									
Other diseases of Respiratory organs.	2	2													
Alcoholism) Cirrhosis of liver }	3					2	/								
Venereal diseases ...															
Premature birth ..	4	4													
Diseases and accidents of parturition.															
Heart diseases ...	7					6	/								
Accidents ...	3					2	/								
Suicides ...															
<i>Exanthema</i> ...	/	/													
<i>Infestation</i> ...	/	/													
<i>Infestation</i> ...	2		2												
<i>Central Hemorrhage</i> ...	2					/	/								
All other causes ...	14		/			5	8								
All causes ...	58	9	6	2	2	23	16								

NOTES.—(a) In this Table all deaths of "Residents" occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be included with the other deaths in the columns for the several age groups (columns 2-8). They are also, in columns 9-15, to be included among the deaths in their respective "Localities" according to the previous addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars. Deaths of "Non-residents" occurring in public institutions in the district are in like manner to be excluded from columns 2-8 and 9-15 of this Table.

(b) See notes on Table I. as to the meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents," and as to the "Public Institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables. The "Localities" should be the same as those in Tables II. and III.

(c) All deaths occurring in public institutions situated within the district, whether of "Residents" or of "Non-residents," are, in addition to being dealt with as in note (a), to be entered in the last column of this Table. The total number in this column should equal the figures for the year in column 9, Table I.

(d) The total deaths in the several "Localities" in columns 9-15 of this Table should equal those for the year in the same localities in Table II., sub-columns c. The total deaths at all ages in column 2 of this Table should equal the gross total of columns 9-15, and the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.

(e) Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhœa, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from

Epidemic enteritis;
Zymotic enteritis;
Epidemic diarrhœa. Summer diarrhœa;
Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhœa;
Choleraic diarrhœa, cholera, cholera nostras
(in the absence of Asiatic cholera).

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Mucous-enteritis, and Gastric catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhœa." Under the headings of "Cancer," "Phthisis" and "Puerperal fever" should be included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms.

Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

Arthur Bullard Medical Officer of Health.

Date Jan 7 27 1904.

Midsomer Norton Urban District Council.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1903.

GENTLEMEN, I beg to submit the following brief report of the work done in the sanitary department during the past year :—

Nuisances.—The usual routine inspection of all parts of the district has been systematically carried out, special attention being given to the more thickly-populated areas. In addition to a large number of verbal cautions, 260 written notices have been served, generally with satisfactory results. Five cases were reported to you and statutory notices were issued. Special inspections were made from time to time in company with the Medical Officer, and five notices requiring structural alteration of premises were served and complied with. Five cases of overcrowding were dealt with and abated. In addition to the above, I have during the year made a very thorough and detailed house-to-house inspection of the whole of the district, and have prepared a complete schedule giving full particulars as to construction of buildings, accommodation, drainage, water supply, etc., etc. I venture to think that the information thus secured will be of considerable service in future work, and it is satisfactory to be able to record that the general sanitary condition of the district has very much improved since a somewhat similar return was prepared about 11 years ago. I presented a detailed report of this inspection in August last, but the following salient features may be recapitulated here: Total population, 5,946; number of dwelling-houses, 1,380, of which 910 have more than four living rooms, 425 have four rooms, and 45 have less than four rooms; whilst 120 houses have doors and windows on one side only, 27 are back-to-back houses, and 4 are semi-cellular dwellings. Practically all the houses in the central part of the district are well built, with good through ventilation. Of the houses 962 are connected to the town sewers, the remainder have E.C.'s or are connected to cess-pools, whilst 69 are without pipe slop drains. With regard to water supply, 262 houses have private wells, 1,008 are supplied from the town mains, whilst 110 are supplied from public springs. Within the district are 5 slaughter-houses, 8 bakehouses, 36 milk-shops and dairies and 162 piggeries, and some of the latter could very well be dispensed with.

Drainage.—Extensions of the sewers have been made at Clandown, Dimborough, and at the rear of High-street. All new houses erected on the line of sewers and some old ones have been connected to them. The sewers have been flushed every month as usual, and have remained in a generally satisfactory condition.

Sewage Disposal.—The general results of treatment at the Clandown and Welton works throughout the year have been satisfactory, the total volume of sewage dealt with amounting to

37,270,500 gallons. The working of the effluent land at Welton has failed to show a profit owing to the cost of certain necessary repairs and to the effect of the wet season upon the crop. Some trouble is experienced in disposing of the sludge.

Water Supply.—The supply from the Chilcompton springs to Norton and Welton has been ample and constant during the year. The purchase of water from the Radstock district for the supply of Clandown, Westfield and part of Welton has been 6,716,000 gallons, a decrease of 873,100 gallons on last year's figures. This is doubtless due to the increased supply from the Chilcompton springs in consequence of the heavy rainfall. For the same reason there was very little scarcity at Clapton and Downside during the past summer. Eight connections with the water mains have been made to new and existing buildings. Special inspections of the mains and connections have been made and 234 notices dealing with leakages of water have been served. The usual quarterly bacteriological and chemical tests of the Chilcompton springs were made by your Analyst, and these were found to be generally satisfactory. Seventeen samples of water from private wells were analysed, which resulted in the water of nine of the wells being condemned as unfit for drinking purposes.

New Buildings.—The uniform yearly growth of the district is still well maintained. During the year you sanctioned plans for the erection of 17 dwelling-houses, two shops and dwelling-houses, three alterations to dwelling-houses and the conversion of the Old Wesleyan School into two cottages; but some of these buildings are not yet completed.

Slaughter-houses.—These have been inspected quarterly, and are kept in very fair condition.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—A special inspection of the district has been made with a view to meeting the requirements of this Act, and a register of factories and workshops has been prepared. There are 11 factories, 23 workshops (mostly out-workers) and 7 bakehouses in the district. Where necessary, notices have been served dealing with sanitary requirements and overcrowding, and in one instance considerable structural works are about to be carried out in order to meet the requirements of the Act.

Common Lodging-houses.—There are none in the district.

Infectious Diseases. Sixty cases of infectious diseases were reported to me during the year, and were dealt with as usual. Nine of them were treated at the Isolation Hospital, of whom eight made a satisfactory convalescence, and there was one death.

Food and Drugs Act.—I have not received any complaints herein, nor have I found it necessary to take any samples.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM F. BIRD.

MIDSOMER NORTON
Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE
— YEAR 1903. —

FROM :
HARVEY & WOODLAND, Printers, "Journal" Office.

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